

**Listing of the Claims:**

**Note:** No claims have been amended, and this listing of the claims is provided for reference only:

1 (original): A method for processing an image to increase sharpness of the image without  
5 changing hue characteristics, the method comprising:

- (a) performing a transformation process to transform an original image signal into CIE XYZ colorimetric channels;
- (b) forming a luminance channel Y;
- (c) applying a filter on the luminance channel Y to obtain a processed luminance  
10 channel Y';
- (d) computing processed colorimetric channels X' and Z' based on the processed  
luminance channel Y'; and
- (e) performing an inverse transformation process to transform the processed  
colorimetric channels X'Y'Z' into a processed image signal.

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2 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the filter applied in step (c) is an unsharp  
masking (USM) filter.

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3 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the filter applied in step (c) is a sharpness  
filter.

4 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein in step (a) the transformation process  
comprises transforming RGB values of the original image signal into CIE XYZ  
colorimetric channels.

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5 (original): The method of claim 4 wherein in step (e) the inverse transformation process  
comprises transforming the processed colorimetric channels X'Y'Z' into R'G'B'

values of the processed image signal.

6 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein in step (a) the transformation process comprises transforming CMYK values of the original image signal into CIE XYZ colorimetric channels.

7 (original): The method of claim 6 wherein in step (e) the inverse transformation process comprises transforming the processed colorimetric channels  $X'Y'Z'$  into  $C'M'Y'K'$  values of the processed image signal.

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8 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein in step (d) a relationship between the processed colorimetric channel  $X'$  and the colorimetric channel  $X$  satisfies the equation  $X'=(X/Y)*Y'$ .

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9 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein in step (d) a relationship between the processed colorimetric channel  $Z'$  and the colorimetric channel  $Z$  satisfies the equation  $Z'=(Z/Y)*Y'$ .

10 (original): An image processing apparatus for implementing the method of claim 1.

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